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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/525,205

02/22/2005

Atsuhiko Saito

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EXAMINER

RIGGLEMAN, JASON PAUL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1746

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/07/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/525,205

Applicant(s)

SAITO ET AL.

Examiner

Jason P. Riggleman

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 February 2005 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/22/2005, 9/29/2005.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☒ Other: Foreign Reference.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: "29". Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "28" has been used to designate both a combination socket and ventilation windows (see specification). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New

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Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

3. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: mounting face – "41". Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Remarks

4. In regards to the claims – the applicant is reminded that "upside down" is subjective and should be defined with respect with the direction of the force of gravity to clarify the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1 and 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable by Braun (US Patent No. 5711328).

6. Braun teaches a shaver cleaning system 5 comprising a hair removing apparatus (shaver 1) and a cleaning device 5. The apparatus has a height (inherent) and an operator head (shaving head 3) at its top end and incorporating an externally controllable electric circuit (electrical control device 29) for driving the operator head and/or charging the apparatus (Column 4, Lines 37-43). The housing is configured to hold the shaver upside down, Fig. 1. A housing basin (cradle structure 7) for accommodating the operator head and a tank (fluid container 6) provided on the housing to contain a volume of a cleaning liquid. There is a supplying means (pump 23) for supplying the cleaning fluid from the tank to the basin for cleaning the operator head; a controller (electronic control device 29) for activating said supplying means as well as for providing the charging electric signal. The housing is formed with a signal transmitting means (switching means 9) for transmitting the charging electric signal, said hair removing apparatus having a signal receiving means (reed switch 95) which comes into electrical interconnection with said signal transmitting means for giving said electric signal to said electric circuit when said apparatus is held by said housing (Column 8, Lines 12-23). The signal transmitting means is disposed at a portion of the housing upwardly of said basin, and said signal receiving means is disposed intermediate the height of said apparatus, Fig. 1. The housing is provided with holding means (elastic supporting means 8) which holds the apparatus in a position where the signal transmission means is kept in electrical interconnection with said signal receiving means. The holding means includes a mechanism that gives a bias for urging the signal transmitting means towards the signal receiving means. The housing is provided

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with a pulling unit (switching means 9) that pulls the apparatus towards the housing to define the mechanism. The housing is provided with a pushing unit (elastic supporting means 8) that pushes the apparatus against the housing, Fig. 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Braun (US Patent No. 5711328) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Urbush (US Patent No. 3659180).

9. Braun does not teach external terminal pads on the shaver for charging purposes; however, Urbush teaches a hair clipper which has housing contacts (terminal portions 114 and 116) on the exterior of the housing for pressed contact with the terminal pads (contacts 100 and 102) (signal receiving means) of the razor, Figs. 2 & 4. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Braun with Urbush to create a re-chargeable electric shaver with an electrical connection provided at an intermediate height (middle) of the electric shaver – since the shaver of Braun has a obstructive locking mechanism at the top and obstructive cleaning mechanism at the bottom.

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10. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Braun (US Patent No. 5711328) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Toshiaki (Japanese Patent No. 5234763).

11. Braun does not teach an electromagnetic induction power charging system; however, Toshiaki teaches the use of housing primary winding (primary coil 8) which transmits an electromagnetic signal to the shaver secondary winding (secondary coil 3) to charge/power the shaving device, Figs. 3 & 5. Toshiaki teaches the location of the windings in the intermediate portion of the shaver – Fig. 3. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Braun with Urbush to create a re-chargeable electric shaver with an electrical connection provided at an intermediate height (middle) of the electric shaver – since the shaver of Braun has a locking mechanism at the top and cleaning mechanism at the bottom – both of which obstruct any possible directly contacting electrical connection. Also, the modification of Braun with Urbush creates a contactless electrical connection – eliminating clogs/dirt buildup in the small crevices/protrusions of such a connection.

Allowable Subject Matter

12. Claim 8 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

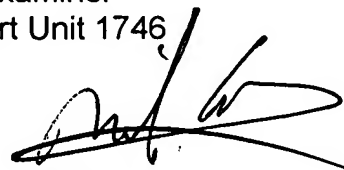
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason P. Riggleman whose telephone number is 571-272-5935. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr can be reached on 571-272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JPR

Jason P Riggleman
Examiner
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Barr', with a stylized flourish at the end.

MICHAEL BARR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER